


UNIT 24

Used to (I used to do)


a Study this example situation:

SMOKING SECTION



Before

NO SMOKING SECTION



Now

This is Dennis. He gave up smoking two years ago. He no longer smokes.

But he **used to smoke**. He **used to smoke** 40 cigarettes a day.

He used to smoke means that he smoked regularly for some time in the past, but he doesn't smoke now:

past ————— now

2 years ago

← he used to smoke →

he doesn't smoke now

We use **used to** with the *base form* (**used to do / used to smoke**, etc.) to say that something happened regularly in the past but no longer happens:

- I **used to play** tennis a lot, but now I'm too lazy.
- "Do you go to the movies very often?" "Not now, but I **used to**."
- Sue **used to travel** a lot. These days she doesn't go away very often.

We also use **used to** for past situations (that no longer exist):

- We **used to live** in a small village, but now we live in Milan.
- This building is now a furniture store. It **used to be** a movie theater.
- Do you see that hill over there? There **used to be** a castle on that hill.
- I've started drinking tea lately. I never **used to like** it before.
- Ann **used to have** long hair, but she cut it some time ago.

b **Used to** + base form is always past. There is no present. You cannot say "I use to do." For the present, use the simple present (**I do**). Compare the present and past:

<i>past</i>	he used to smoke	we used to live	there used to be
<i>present</i>	he smokes	we live	there is

c The normal question form is **did ... use to ... ?**:

- **Did you use to eat** a lot of candy when you were a child?

The negative form is **didn't use to ...** (*or never used to*)

- Jim **didn't use to go out** very often until he met Jill. (*or never used to go out*)

d Be careful not to confuse **I used to do** and **I am used to doing** (see Unit 59). The structures and meanings are different:

- I **used to live** alone. (= I lived alone but I no longer live alone.)
- I **am used to living** alone. (= I live alone and don't find it strange or new because I've been living alone for some time.)

UNIT 24 Exercises

24.1 Complete each sentence with *used to* . . .

Example: Dennis doesn't smoke anymore, but he *used to smoke* . . . 40 cigarettes a day.

1. The baby doesn't cry so much now, but she . . . every night.
2. She . . . my best friend, but we aren't friends anymore.
3. We live in Barcelona now, but we . . . in Madrid.
4. Now there's only one cafe in the village, but there . . . three.
5. When I was a child I . . . ice cream, but I don't like it now.
6. Now Tom has a car. He . . . a motorcycle.

24.2 Write some sentences about a man who changed his lifestyle. Ron stopped doing some things and started doing other things:

He stopped {
 studying hard
 going to bed early
 running three miles every morning

He started {
 smoking
 staying out late
 spending a lot of money

Make sentences like these:

Examples: *He used to study hard.*
He never used to smoke, or He didn't use to smoke.

1. . . .
2. . . .
3. . . .
4. . . .

24.3 Write sentences about the present. Remember there is no present tense of *used to*.

Examples: Ron used to study hard, but now *he doesn't study very hard.*
 Ron didn't use to smoke, but now *he smokes.*

1. Mark used to play tennis a lot, but now . . .
2. Mary never used to drink coffee, but now . . .
3. Jill didn't use to be fat, but now . . .
4. Jack didn't use to go out much, but now . . .

24.4 Ask some questions. Mr. Park is an old man now. You are asking someone what he used to do when he was younger.

Example: I know he doesn't smoke now, but *did he use to smoke* . . . ?

1. I know he doesn't play the piano now, but . . . ?
2. I know he isn't very rich now, but . . . ?
3. I know he doesn't go out very often these days, but . . . ?
4. I know he doesn't dance these days, but . . . ?
5. I know he doesn't have many friends now, but . . . ?